

**BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 1998 - FEBRUARY, 1999**

March 09, 1999

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December - February 28. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Sporadic, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist.

As with most of the Trans-Pecos, we've experienced a mild and dry winter, much like last year. Precipitation totals for the three month period as compared to the same period last year (+/-): Panther Junction: 0.15" (-0.53"). Chisos Basin: 0.27" (-0.95"). Rio Grande Village: 0.00" (-0.81"). Castolon: 0.04" (-0.34"). Persimmon Gap: 0.05" (-0.41"). Most of the precipitation occurred in December in the form of snow or sleet. January was extremely dry, and February brought a one day rain that fell mostly at Panther Junction and the Chisos Basin.

As with last season, wintering sparrow populations were slim, with chipping, clay-colored and Brewer's present but never numerous. Vespers, larks, and lark buntings were virtually absent. Black-chinned sparrows seemed more prevalent this winter in lower elevations than in previous years and continue to linger around the Panther Junction area and the Sam Nail Ranch. With the recent split of Solitary vireo I am trying to get a handle on the distribution of Cassin's and blue-headed vireo in the park. This winter, blue-headed vireos were observed more often than either Cassin's and plumbeous, but still would be uncommon-rare. Do you have any feel for the winter distribution of any of the three vireos? Highlights for the season included a **Least Bittern** at the RGV Nature trail in December and February, the presence of lone snow geese along the Rio Grande (this may have been the same individual moving west to east along the river corridor), a lone Canada goose at the Hot Springs on the Christmas Count, a small flock of common goldeneye also working down the river in January and February, a lone **white-tipped dove** in Boquillas canyon at river mile 789 in January, and a male Anna's hummingbird that stayed at my feeder from October through January 15. This was particularly gratifying as he arrived in immature plumage and left in full blown adult colors.

**BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 1998 - FEBRUARY, 1999**

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Least bittern	1	12/09	RGV-Nature Trail	Carl George	? win
	1	02/01	RGV-Nature Trail	L. Leigh	? win
Snow goose	1	12/23	Castolon	R. Deffeyes	? win
	1	12/25	Black Dike	Barin Beard	? win
	1imm	01/17	Boq.Cyn RM794	Mark Flippo	? win
Canada goose	1	12/29*	Hot Springs	Mark Flippo	? win
Wood duck	2m,1f	12/10	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Common goldeneye	2m,1f	01/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Ro Wauer	acc.
	10	02/10	Santa Elena Cyn.	Darren Wallis	acc.
Canvasback	2m,1f	02/09	RGV-Nature Trail	Tom Holberstadt	spo.
Ruddy duck	1f	12/29*	Gravel Pit	B.Reiner,T.Miller	? win
Merlin	1	12/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Carl George	rare
	1f	01/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Prairie falcon	1	12/28*	Panther Canyon	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	12/28*	Pine Canyon	Ken Stinnet	rare
Virginia rail	1	12/26	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Sandhill crane	20	12/22	3mi S.Panther Jct	J&W Risser	rare
	5	02/19	Harte Ranch	Sina Bremer	unc.
	100+	02/20	Tornillo Creek	Mark Flippo	unc.
gull spp.**	5	12/30	Cottonwood Camp.	B.Reiner,T.Miller	?
** reported as Bonaparte's gull, but identification not positive.					
White-tipped dove	1	01/17	Boq.Cyn RM 789	Mark Flippo	? win
Groove-billed ani	1	12/02	RGV-Service road	Barbara Duplisea	? win
	1	12/04	RGV-Nature Trail	Barbara Duplisea	? win
	1	12/06-07	RGV-Nature Trail	MW O'Connor	? win
	1	12/12	RGV-Nature Trail	Carl George	? win
Anna's hummingbird	1m	12/1-31	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare

	1f,1m	12/30	Panther Junction	Ken Stinnet	rare
	1m,1f	01/1-15	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Green kingfisher	1f	12/01-31	RGV-Nature Trail	many observers	rare
	1f	1/01-31	RGV-Nature Trail	many observers	rare
Gray flycatcher	1	12/29*	RGV-Overflow area	Flippo, Stinnet Nick Block	rare
Cassin's vireo	1m	02/28	RGV-Daniels Ranch	B.Lupardus F.Rowland	? win.
Blue-headed vireo	1m	12/21	Cottonwood Camp	J&W Risser	? win
	1m	12/29*	RGV-campground	Block, Flippo Stinnet	? win
	1m	01/28	Cottonwood Camp	Mark Flippo	? win
	1m	02/27	RGV-Daniels ranch	Mark Flippo	? win.
Purple martin	1	02/04	RGV-Nature Trail	Penny Luketon	acc.
Tree swallow	10	02/13	Santa Elena Cyn	Darren Wallis	acc.
Carolina wren	1	12/26	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Gray catbird	2	12/29	RGV-campground	Ken Stinnet	acc.
Sage thrasher	1	12/20	NE of Fossil Bone	J&W Risser	spo.
	3	12/28*	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
	2	01/02	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	01/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	02/28	River Rd. West	Sharron Bennett	spo.
Townsend's warb.	1m	12/28*	Boot Canyon		spo.
Field sparrow	1	12/06	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	12/30	Sam Nail Ranch	Bill Reiner	spo.
Sage sparrow	1	12/20	Tornillo Flat	J&W Risser	spo.
	1	12/29*	Rte 12, mp17	Nick Block	spo.
	5	01/13	Rte 16, Alamo Crk	Ro Wauer	spo.
* Christmas Count 12/28-Chisos Mtns, 12/29-Rio Grande Village					
Summer tanager	1	02/28	RGV-service rd	Gerri Mattson	early

Song sparrow	12	12/29	RGV Christmas Ct	several observers	rare
	1	01/13	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	02/28	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Lupardus, Rowland	rare

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 1999

June 4, 1999

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period March 1 - May 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?spr" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the spring season.

While still dry, the area has received more rainfall this spring than last year. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through May 1998 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 1.36 " (+0.41"), Chisos Basin; 1.33" (+0.76"), Rio Grande Village; 2.55" (+2.03"), Castolon; 2.34" (+2.27"), and Persimmon Gap; 1.41" (+1.33"). What rain has fallen, has come at good times, providing for a nice wildflower bloom from late February through March, particularly for the ocotillos. Given the relatively good rainfall and given that the "showiest" migrations occur in the extremely dry years, I figured we'd have a relatively quiet spring season. Well, what do I know? Only this...

The longer I'm here, the less predictable the Spring season becomes. To start with, several species began showing up earlier than usual. Black-chinned hummingbirds were present from 2/27 and Lucifers appeared around 3/19; elf owls showed up 3/7; black-throated gray warblers began popping up 3/7 at Cottonwood campground, followed a couple of weeks later by Nashville warblers. The first noticeable wave of migrant sparrows began the end of March on the heels of a good rainfall throughout the park. Vespers, larks and savannahs were very abundant for about a week with few grasshopper sparrows mingled in the flocks, all these species about two weeks earlier than last year. On April 12 there was a major push of Wilson's warblers, just ahead of a heavy rainfall along the southern edge of the park on the 13th. At the same time there were two reports of **Swainson's warbler**, one from Pine Canyon on the 11th and another on the Laguna Meadow Trail on the 13th. Colima warblers arrived a little later this year than many people hoped, the first report coming from April 15th. As usual, the final two weeks of April and on into the first week of May was the peak migration period with many accidentals showing up (see attached list). Conspicuously absent this year were Baird's sparrows (only one report by Wauer) which harkens back to your comments on the field study in Cihauhuhua, and hooded orioles, a rare but expected breeder at Cottonwood.

The "most unexpected" award goes this year to a **ferruginous pygmy-owl** reported by Borderland Tours leaders Rick Taylor and Narca Moore-Craig on April 20th at the overflow area in Rio Grande Village. The group watched the bird for about 20 minutes but no photographs were obtained nor did the owl call. They did submit a detailed report to TBRC (copy attached). Several people, including yourself and Greg Lasley, tried to relocate the owl but nothing turned up.

As a follow-up to this report, I received a phone message from John Karges (Nature Conservancy-Ft.Davis) who reported hearing a ferruginous at dusk at the Daniels ranch area on May 30th. I didn't receive the report until June 2, but did try for two consecutive days to relocate the bird. As with the first report, no luck. I'll keep looking.

Other highlights for the spring include a nesting common black-hawk at Rio Grande Village. This is the fourth year in a row that black-hawks have returned to the same grove at Rio Grande Village, but this year they moved to a different tree, one right next to the main road. As last year, we cordoned

off an area around the tree soon after the hawks began building the new nest. The female has been on the nest at least since April 18 so this year we may finally see a successful nesting. I will continue to monitor for any sign of fledging young.

A Tropical kingbird was reported by Lasley and Lockwood on May 7 at Cottonwood Campground and I was able to relocate the bird near the group site the following day. I heard the bird calling during a Breeding Bird Survey on May 16. Today (June 4) I watched the kingbird for about an hour and it is definitely defending a territory along the group site fence. There is a possible second bird in the area. I will continue to monitor for nesting.

A shortened version of the annual Black-capped vireo survey was conducted in May by Texas Parks and Wildlife staff (John Maresh and David Hernandez). In a quick, one-week survey, the two person team was able to locate only seven males, two females, and two nests. The two pair were building nests on May 25. A follow-up check on May 30 had mixed results. At the first nest no vireos were seen or heard, but the second pair was still in the area of their nest. I will be checking the nests periodically to see if there are any changes in the coming month. Last year Mark Peck speculated that extreme drought conditions inhibited the vireos from egg-laying. While this spring has seen increased rainfall as compared to last year, it is still very dry.

Peregrine falcons were monitored through the season, and will continued to be watched until fledging is completed. At this point there are six known eyries (compared to 11 last year) and all appear to have nestlings. On May 24, Park Ranger Mike Ryan found a young peregrine (close to fledging) in the river at Mariscal Canyon. The bird was either blown from the cliff during a storm or simply crashed during an initial attempt at flight. With a reported flood surge coming downstream, Ryan decided to rescue the falcon and bring it in. The young bird, a female, appears healthy and is currently being held at the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area. At first the falcon would only take food that was dead but now is taking live animals (ducklings). Bonnie McKinney is working with the bird to exercise its wings and prepare it for return to the canyon. Observers believe there is a second nestling still on the cliff.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 1999

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Double-crested cormorant	1	3/20	Rio Grande W&SR Mile 698-696	Marcos Paredes	rare
Black-crowned Night-heron	2	3/22	RGV-Nature Trail	Paul Blanchard	rare
	2	4/04	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Adams	rare
	1	5/02	RGV-Nature Trail		rare
Common merganser	1m	3/05	Colorado Cyn.	Darren Wallis	rare
	3m, 3f	4/18	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Harris's hawk	1	4/03	Grapevine Hills	Betty, Jack Groce	rare
Common black-hawk	2*	3/14	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2**	3/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	3/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Courtney Blood	rare
	1***	4/18	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	4/1-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	1	4/28-30	Cottonwood Camp.	R. Hoyer, R. Wauer	rare
	2	5/01-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
*carrying nesting material					
** at new nest. Area near nest closed off to prevent unnecessary intrusion.					
*** female sitting on nest (eggs?).					
Wild turkey	1	5/01	Santa Elena Rd	Danny Burns	rare
	1	5/03	Cottonwood camp.	Sarah Bourbon	rare
	3f	5/02	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2f	5/09	Santa Elena Cyn	Danny Burns	rare
	1f	5/17	Santa Elena Cyn	Patty Munson	rare
	2	5/18	Rte 11, mp 25	Jenny Calame	rare
Virginia rail	1	4/02	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Common moorhen	1	5/13	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Black-necked stilt	2	5/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Ken Burton	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Baird's sandpiper	1	3/21	Hot Springs	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	5/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Flammulated owl	1	4/25	Boot Canyon	Carol Cameron	rare
	1	5/14-15	Boot Canyon		rare
Ferruginous pygmy-owl	1*	4/20	RGV-overflow area	Rick Taylor Narca Moore-Craig	hyp.
	1**	5/30	RGV-Daniels Ranch	John Karges	hyp.
*Review species; report to TBRC:Lasley. Accepted by TBRC 1st round 5/01/01					
** Call only; personal communication from Karges.					
Long-eared Owl	1	3/20	Terlingua Creek	Mark Flippo	?spr.
	1	4/11	Swirl Tinaja	Dale Ohl	?spr.
Ruby-throated hummingbird	1m	5/22-23	Panther Jctn	Mark Flippo	rare
Yellow-bellied flycatcher	1	5/05	Boot Canyon	James & Jetta Wilder	acc.
Dusky-capped flycatcher	1	4/12	Dugout Wells	Larry, Nancy LaBrant	acc.
*Review species; report to be sent to TBRC:Lasley. Unaccepted 2/01-TBRC					
Tropical kingbird	1*	5/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Lasley/Lockwood	acc.
	1*	5/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc
	1*	5/16	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc
*Review species; report to be sent to TBRC:Lasley					
Couch's kingbird	1	5/20-21	Panther Jctn	Mark Flippo	rare
Eastern kingbird	1	5/16	Rte 15 mp4	Mark Flippo	rare
Black-capped vireo	1	4/13	RGV-Daniel's Rch	René Laubach	rare
	5m2f	5/23-30	Basin/Juniper Cyn	J.Maresh, D.Hernandez	
Blue-headed vireo	2m	3/06	RGV-Daniel's Rch	Mark Flippo	?spr.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Gray vireo	1m	3/03	Boquillas Cyn	Ro Wauer	rare
	1	3/03	Dugout Wells	Ro Wauer	rare
	1m	3/23	Grapevine Hills	John Pumilio	rare
	1m	3/31	Blue Creek	Doug Buri	rare
	1m	4/17	Pine Cyn trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Red-eyed vireo	1	4/24	Pine Canyon	J&W Risser	rare
Brown creeper	1	3/01	RGV-campground	Eldon Bennet	spo.
Carolina wren	1	4/04	RGV-Nature trail	Mark Adams	rare
Eastern bluebird	2f	4/15	Cottonwood camp.	Suzanne Beauchaine	rare
	1f	4/16	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	4/23	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	5/03	Cottonwood camp.	Sarah Bourbon	rare
Veery	1	3/3-4	Chisos Basin	Homer Cunningham	acc.
Gray catbird	1	4/30	RGV-Nature Trail	Jim Emmons	rare
Olive Warbler	1m*	3/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Roger Burrows	?spr.

***Review species; reports sent to TBRC:Lasley. **Photographs to be submitted.
(NOT) Photos never submitted.. Unaccepted 2/01-TBRC**

Blue-winged warbler	1m	5/02	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	acc.
Golden-winged warbler	1m	5/07	Cottonwood Camp.	G. Lasley M.Lockwood	acc.
	1m	5/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Tennessee warbler	1	4/28	Sam Nail Ranch	J&W Risser	acc.
Tropical parula	1m	4/03	RGV-overflow area	Bob Landry	acc
Chestnut-sided warbler	1	4/24	Cottonwood Camp.	Glenn Walbek	acc.
	1f	5/06	RGV-Daniels Rch	D.A. Nelson	acc
	1m	5/25	Sam Nail Ranch	Bourbon, Flippo	acc

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Black-throated gray warbler	1m	3/07	Cottonwood camp.	Dale Ohl	rare
	1m	3/23	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2m	4/16	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	4/19	Laguna Mdw Trail	S.Cramer E.Feuth	rare
	1f	4/20	Window Trail	Carol Cameron	rare
	1	4/28	Boot Canyon	Bob Shackelton	rare
	1	5/02	Rio Grande Vill.	Ken Burton	rare
Black-throated green warbler	1m	4/07	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	4/19	Boot Canyon	Lee Evans	rare
Hermit warbler	1f	5/08	Pinnacles Tr.	Greg Lasley	rare
Blackburnian warbler	1m	5/09	RGV-Amphitheater	Tom Morgan	acc.
Yellow-throated warbler	1m	4/07	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/08	RGV-Nature Trail	Tom Morgan	rare
Palm warbler	1	4/28	RGV-Daniels Rch	Wayne Machado	acc.
Blackpoll warb.	1m	4/24	RGV-Overflow area	Kelly Bryan	acc.
Prothonotary warbler	1m	4/24	RGV-Nature Trail	Larry Nesdesitt	acc.
	1m	4/27	RGV-Nature Trail	Bob Shackleton	acc.
Worm-eating warbler	1	4/28	Sam Nail Ranch	J&W Risser	rare
	1	4/30	Sam Nail Ranch	Rich Hoyer	rare
Swainson's warbler	1	4/11	Pine Canyon	Mark Adams Craig Nance	acc.
	1	4/13	Laguna Mdw. Trail	Bob, Inez Triebensee	acc.
Ovenbird	1	5/07	Sam Nail Ranch	Ro Wauer	rare

Kentucky warbler	1	5/01	Cottonwood camp.	Peg Abbott	rare
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Hooded warbler	1m	4/29	Sam Nail Ranch	Bill Zuzevich Steven Donovan	rare
	1m	5/02	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
Red-faced warbler	1*	5/06	Boot Spring	Eric Horvath	acc.

*Review species; reports sent to TBRC:Lasley. Accepted 2/01-TBRC

Baird's sparrow	1*	5/06	Tornillo Flat	Ro Wauer	rare
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*Review species; reports sent to TBRC:Lasley.

Chestnut-collared longspur	2m	3/27	Panther Jct	Mark Flippo	rare
Lazuli bunting	1f	4/22	Sam Nail Ranch	J&W Risser	rare
	1m	4/23	Cottonwood Camp.	J&W Risser	rare
	1m	4/26	RGV-Daniels Rch	Jeff Kingery	rare
	1f	4/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Rich Hoyer	rare
Rose-breasted grosbeak	1	4/05	Lost Mine Trail	M. Dixon	rare
	1m	5/02	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/09	Dugout Wells	Ro Wauer	rare

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 1999

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period June 1 - July 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist.

Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through July 1998(+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 8.26" (+1.55"), Chisos Basin; 11.21" (+5.19"), Rio Grande Village; 6.05" (+4.85"), Castolon; 7.57" (+5.01"), and Persimmon Gap; 10.46" (+8.46"). As an example of the significant rainfall for the summer season, the Chisos Basin's June/July precipitation has amounted to 95% of the ytd total for that area of the park. One storm alone on the evening of July 23 dumped 2-1/2 inches of rain on the Basin in about a two-hour period. The Rio Grande has been up and down throughout the summer, reaching flood stage several times and both Terlingua and Tornillo Creek have flashed bank-to-bank on several occasions. Folks who have been around the area for awhile are saying this is the wettest summer since 1991.

Unlike the summer of 1998 when lingering eastern vagrant warblers were present well into June, this summer has been quieter. Unexpected species included a **male broad-billed hummingbird** that spent one day at a feeder in my backyard on June 10, a **female broad-billed hummingbird** along the Window Trail on July 14 observed by a VENT group led by Barry Zimmer, and a **male white-eared hummingbird** along the Northeast Rim trail on June 25. A friend of mine (John Zubia) reported the latter bird. He thought he had a broad-billed hummingbird, based only on my mention to him of the broad-billed in my backyard. When he described the hummer he had seen, I knew it wasn't a broad-billed male and even a broad-billed female wasn't consistent with the field marks reported. Eventually I got John to do a TBRC rare bird report, but I doubt it will pass muster with the committee. In any case, I feel certain that what John saw was indeed a male white-eared.

A highlight for this summer was the first (as far as I can tell from park records) successful nesting of the common black-hawks in Big Bend National Park. The pair at Rio Grande Village hatched one nestling sometime between June 1st and 5th. The nestling fledged sometime between July 11th and 24th. I would like to think that the closing of the area immediately around the nest earlier this year than we did last year made a difference. Then again, the nest was very close to the road and the sitting female didn't seem to be disturbed at all by activity out on the road shoulder. Whatever the reason, I'm just glad to have finally seen at least one black-hawk fledge from a nest here in the park.

The tropical kingbirds at Cottonwood Campground have been somewhat mysterious with their nesting efforts this season. I was able to locate a pair on June 26th close to the midpoint of the campground near campsite 21 and a second pair in the group site. The group site pair was defending territory

and tending to a nest. On July 7th, Paige Warren reported finding a pair at campsite 7 feeding three fledglings. The reported date is a full month and three weeks ahead of last year's observation of a fledgling tropical kingbird. Unfortunately, I was unable to find any fledgling kingbirds (western or tropical) on the 10th, and could only locate the pair at the group site. This doesn't mean there wasn't a tropical kingbird pair present near site 7. The tropicals aren't as vocal as the westerns, and often sit quietly for long periods of time so I certainly could have missed them. On the 24th in addition to the group site pair, I did find a pair of tropical kingbirds above campsite 7, not with fledglings but tending a nest. Adjacent to their territory was a pair of western kingbirds tending three juvenile birds. I can't help but wonder if Warren didn't see western kingbird fledglings and had the adults confused. The two territories overlap and both species were interacting on the day I watched. So, the short of it is I'm not sure what's going on with the tropical kingbirds at Cottonwood. Either one pair has already fledged young, or there are two pair tending nests and expecting young sometime in August. As an interesting side note, I observed a pair of Tropical kingbirds on a nest at the "Post" county park south of Marathon on July 5th. I don't know if tropical kingbirds have ever been documented nesting in the Trans-Pecos outside of Big Bend National Park.

To repeat and update black-capped vireo survey data, the monitoring was conducted in May by Texas Parks and Wildlife staff (John Maresh and David Hernandez). In a quick, one-week survey, the two-person team was able to locate only seven males, two females, and two nests. The two pair were building nests on May 25. A follow-up check on May 30 by Maresh and Flipppo had mixed results. At the first nest no vireos were seen or heard, but the second pair was still in the area of their nest. On June 10th I found a female and three vireo eggs in the first nest and no vireos, three vireo eggs and one brown-headed cowbird egg in the second nest. This is the first cowbird parasitism reported on bc vireos in at least five years. By June 19th the first nest had evidently been predated and abandoned (only two eggs left, no adults present) and by the 20th the second nest had only one vireo egg left. The last check of the nests on June 28th confirmed that both nests had been abandoned. According to Maresh, the two pair probably abandoned the nests early on and made second attempts elsewhere.

Peregrine falcons were monitored through the season. As of the end of May there were seven known aeries (compared to 11 last year) and all appeared to have nestlings. There was no nesting activity in the Chisos Mountains this year. As of today there have been three confirmed fledglings, all from the Mariscal Canyon area. The juvenile female found on the ground in Mariscal Canyon on May 24 has been moved to a raptor rehabilitation center near San Antonio.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 1999

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Black-crowned night-heron	1	7/03	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Common black-hawk	2*	3/14	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2**	3/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
*carrying nesting material					
** at new nest. Area near nest closed off to prevent unnecessary intrusion.					
	1	3/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Courtney Blood	rare
	1*	4/18	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
* female sitting on nest (eggs?).					
	2	4/1-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2	5/01-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	3*	6/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Flippo/G. Carver	rare
* Downy nestling observed. Hatching sometime between 6/1-6/5.					
	1-3	6/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	3*	7/11	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	3**	7/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1juv	7/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
*Last observation of nestling in nest; exercising wings, fully feathered.					
**Fledged.					
Wild turkey	1f	6/26	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Sora	1	6/05	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Eastern Screech-owl	1	6/-03	Rio Grande Vill.	Gina McCullough	rare
	2	7/09	Cottonwood Camp.	Paige Warren	rare
Broad-billed hummingbird	1m*	6/10	Panther Jctn	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1f*	7/14	Window Trail	Barry Zimmer	acc.

*Review species; reports sent to TBRC:Lasley. 6/10 record Accepted by TBRC
2/01 7/14 record accepted 4/01.

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White-eared Hummingbird	1m*	6/25	Northeast Rim	John Zubia	acc.
*Review species; report sent to TBRC:Lasley. Not accepted by TBRC 4/01					
Magnificent Hummingbird	1	6/12	High Chisos	Bob Rasa	rare
Green kingfisher	1f	7/11	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	7/24	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Eastern phoebe	1	6/13	Cottonwood camp.	Forrest Rowland	rare
Brown-crested flycatcher	2mf	6/04	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2mf	6/05	RGV-Daniels Rnch	Mark Flippo	rare
	2mf	7/10	Cottonwood Camp	Mark Flippo	rare
Tropical kingbird	1	5/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Lasley/Lockwood	acc.
	1	5/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1	5/16	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1	6/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1	6/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Forrest Rowland	acc.
	4*	6/26	Cottonwood Camp	Mark Flippo	acc.
* Two pair; defending territories. One pair on nest.					
	2*	7/05	County Park, Marathon	Flippo	acc
* Pair on nest at the "Post" county park, 5 miles south of Marathon, TX.					
	5*	7/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Paige Warren	acc.
* Pair with 3 fledglings at site 17. Early fledge date?					
	2*	7/10	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
* Unable to find pair with fledglings. 1 pair located still tending nest.					
	4*	7/24	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
* Two pair tending nests. No fledglings.					
White-eyed Vireo	1	6/06	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare

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Black-capped vireo	1f	6/10	Chisos Basin	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	6/28	Chisos Basin	Mark Flippo	rare
Carolina wren	1	6/05	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	7/24	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
American robin	1m	6/05	Cottonwood camp.	Mark Flippo	late
Phainopepla	2f	6/22	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare

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AUGUST - NOVEMBER 1999

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period August 1 - November 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist.

Dry conditions prevailed during the reporting period. Late summer/early fall rains which would be normal for the season failed to develop and since mid-August there has been essentially no rain and warmer than usual temperatures. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through November 1998(+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 9.79" (-3.53"), Chisos Basin; 15.71" (+0.48"), Rio Grande Village; 6.79" (+1.09"), Castolon; 10.35" (+2.62"), and Persimmon Gap; 12.20" (+6.32").

With the dry conditions and the lack of any major cold fronts pushing down, things were pretty quiet in the area. One highlight was an immature **northern goshawk** near the Sam Nail ranch on September 9 - documentation submitted to Lasley. For the third year in a row, a pair of green kingfishers have been working the area along the RGV nature trail, providing many observers with excellent views. A surprising find occurred along the Lower Canyons section of the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River on October 30. A group of bat researchers out with River Patrol Ranger Mike Ryan caught a **rufous-backed robin** in a mist net. They held the bird in hand and compared it to plates in a field guide to aide their identification. Unfortunately no one thought to take pictures (it wasn't a bat?!), so we have no photographic documentation of the find. I did finally get Ryan to provide a written report and submitted that to Greg Lasley. If accepted it will be only the second record for the park.

Migrant warblers were sparse for the period with a small push in mid-September and another in mid-October. A **red-faced warbler** in Boot Canyon on August 14 was the highlight for the early fall season, and a male prothonotary at RGV and several hermit warblers in the high Chisos were nice late fall finds. At this point we are in to the expected Audubons and orange-crowns.

Winter sparrows have been sparse as well. Clay-colored, Brewer's and Chipping sparrows were around for a period of time in September and October, and vespers have been present throughout but never in great numbers. Savannah sparrows were present in good numbers from mid-October on. Great-tailed grackles have been very numerous in the park this fall and a few common grackles have been observed traveling with their larger relatives.

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White pelican	1	10/31	Santa Elena Cyn.	Sue Baumuster	acc.
Double-crested cormorant	1	10/18	Rio Grande Vill.	Roy Reinarz	rare
Yellow-crowned night-heron	3imm	8/29-9/24	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Ibis, species	1	10/14	RGV-Nature Trail	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Lesser scaup	1	10/23	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Northern goshawk	1imm*	9/09	pull-out at Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	acc.
* Review species: Report to TBRC:Lasley Accepted by TBRC 1st round 5/01/01					
Common black-hawk	3*	8/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
* Last reported observation of black-hawks.					
Merlin	1	10/10	Cottonwood Camp.	Jan & Will Risser	rare
	1f	10/23	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	11/03	RGV-Group camp	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	11/07	RGV-Daniels Rnch	Mark Flippo	rare
Virginia rail	1	10/14	RGV-Nature Trail	Jan & Will Risser	rare
	1	11/03	RGV-Nature Trail	D&B Burnett	rare
Upland sandpiper	1	9/18	Rio Grande Vill.	Jason Berry	rare
Long-billed dowitcher	1	10/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Lotrich	acc.
Wilson's phalarope	1	10/02	Lajitas	Darren Wallis	rare
White-tipped dove	1	9/10	Santa Elena Cyn.	Darren Wallace	acc.
Barn owl	1	8/04	Terlinua Creek	Mark Flippo	rare
Short-eared owl	1	10/30	Ernst Tinaja	Tom VandenBerg	rare
Ruby-throated hummingbird	2m*	8/19-9/12	Panther Jctn	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	10/07	Panther Jctn.	Mark Flippo	rare

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Anna's hummingbird	1m	10/01-31	Panther Jctn	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	10/13	Blue Creek Cyn.	Jan & Will Risser	rare
	1m	11/01-30	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	11/07	RGV-Damiels Rnch	Mark Flippo	rare
Green kingfisher	1f	7/11	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	7/24	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2m,f	8/05	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	8/23	RGV-Nature Trail	Lynn Cropper	rare
	2m,f	8/29	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2m,f	8/30	RGV-Nature Trail	Ro Wauer	rare
	2m,f	9/01-30	RGV-Nature Trail	Many observers	rare
	2m,f	10/01-31	RGV-Nature Trail	Many observers	rare
	1	10/13	Santa Elena Cyn.	Flo Graham	rare
	2m,f	11/01-30	RGV-Nature Trail	manu observers	rare
Ash-throated flycatcher	1	11/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	spo.
Brown-crested flycatcher	1	9/06	RGV-Campground	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	10/01	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Eastern kingbird	1	9/09	Pull-out at Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
Red-eyed vireo	1	9/09	Pine Canyon	Ro Wauer	rare
Tree swallow	2	9/09	SaM Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
Carolina wren	2	8/29	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	9/17	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	9/24	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	10/01-31	RGV-Nature Trail	many observers	rare
Mountain bluebird	2m	10/31	Persimmon Gap	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1f	11/02	Panther Junction	Brenda Burnett	spo.
	1f	11/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	spo.

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Rufous-backed robin	1*	10/30	River Mile 749.5 (Regan Canyon)	Mike Ryan Loren Ammerman	?fall
* Review species: Report to TBRC:Lasley Accepted 9/5/01					
Gray catbird	1	10/11	RGV-Nature Trail	Storm Sernay	rare
	2	10/23	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Sage thrasher	2	10/11	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	spo.
Tennessee warbler	1	9/07	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc.
Hermit warbler	1f	10/11	Pine Canyon	Jan & Will Risser	rare
	4m	10/21	Boot Cyn/S.Rim	Tyrrell Harvey	rare
Prothonotary warbler	1	9/12	RGV_Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	acc.
Louisiana waterthrush	1	9/20	RGV-Campground	Mark Flippo	acc.
Red-faced warbler	1*	8/14	Boot Canyon	Eric Carpenter	spo.
* Review species: Detailed report submitted to TBRC:Lasley. Accepted by TBRC 4/01					
Hepatic tanager	3	9/17	Pinnacles Trail	Ron Crews	rare
Grasshopper sparrow	1	10/14	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Baird's sparrow	1*	8/30	Chisos Basin	Ro Wauer	rare
* Review species: Report to TBRC:Lasley					
Common grackle	1f	10/20	RGV-Campground	Roy Reinarz	acc.
	4m,f	11/04	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc.
Hooded Oriole	1m	10/08	RGV-Campground	Mark Flippo	rare